

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



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## Coalition not in guerrilla war, Rumsfeld says

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2003 – Former regime sympathizers and criminals are behind the attacks on coalition forces in Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said on Capitol Hill today. The secretary also said he does not believe the activity in Iraq rises to the level of a guerrilla war.

Rumsfeld and Marine Gen. Peter Pace, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke to reporters following a closed-door meeting with Senate members.

The senators are concerned about the coalition casualties in Iraq. Two Americans were killed and 13 wounded in separate incidents in Iraq June 26, for example.

Rumsfeld said the Fedayeen Saddam and Baath party loyalists are working to subvert and sabotage the coalition. "They are out doing things that are unhelpful to the coalition, and that the coalition is taking every step possible to root them out," he said.

Coalition personnel are now on point against these people. As the number of retrained members of the Iraqi police force increases, they will handle many of these cases, Rumsfeld said. The coalition effort to recruit a "de-Baathicized" Iraqi army will also pay off in the long run, he said.

Rumsfeld was specifically asked if he believed the coalition was engaged in a guerrilla war. "I don't know that I would use the word," he said. In many cases, the attackers are common criminals. Saddam Hussein released about 100,000 common criminals from the Iraqi prison system. "Those people are out there; they're doing things that are unhelpful to the Iraqi people," he said.

Pace addressed the case of the two missing American soldiers north of Baghdad. "All we know right now is we do have two soldiers who are missing from their appointed place of duty," he said. "We do not know the specifics of what happened or why. The units on the ground are working very hard to determine, through local contacts, what happened, and they're out searching for the soldiers. But we do not know the specifics."

## Senate confirms Abizaid as new Iraq commander

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Senate on Friday confirmed Army Lt. Gen. John Abizaid to replace Gen. Tommy Franks as head of U.S. Central Command, a position that includes responsibility for U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Abizaid (pronounced AB'-ih-zayd) is now the No. 2 official at Central Command, which oversees military operations from the Horn of Africa to Central Asia. He was confirmed by voice vote.

Senators praised him during a confirmation hearing Wednesday for his extensive military background and expertise in the Middle East. He is the grandson of Lebanese immigrants, fluent in

Arabic, and holds a master's degree in Middle East studies from Harvard.



They also praised his bluntness.

At the hearing, Abizaid said he was perplexed by the failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. He also said a large number of U.S. soldiers will be needed in Iraq "for the foreseeable future."

Franks announced last month that he would retire this summer.

# Maintenance, ammunition jobs offer enlistment bonus

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 27, 2003) - Bonuses are being offered in four more specialties this month for new recruits, but the number of jobs paying cash advances for enlisting is still down compared to last year.

Not only are the enlistment options down for individuals coming into the Army, soldiers currently serving have limited re-enlistment options, and that probably won't change until late next fiscal year, said Sgt. Maj. James Vales, the G1 retention sergeant major.

Because of intense recruiting, the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command is only offering enlistment bonuses for 56 of the Army's 240 military occupational specialties — down from last year's 76, said Sgt. Maj. Alphonsa Green, the senior recruiting policy noncommissioned officer for the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1.

Soldiers can get between \$1,000 to \$3,000 for signing a four- to six-year enlistment contract for the following jobs: test measurement and diagnostic equipment support specialist, 35H; fire control system repairer, 45G; ammunition specialist, 55B; and imagery analyst, 96D.

The bonuses are being made available three months before the next fiscal year because a red flag was raised in the recruiting efforts for those particular specialties, Green said.

"People were not volunteering for those jobs, so we're offering incentives," Green said. "Enlistment bonuses are given based on the needs of the Army. For example, the Infantry Career Field is doing well. So it fell off the list."

Four military occupational specialties were taken off the bonus list

and the dollar amount was decreased for 14 others. The MOS with the highest payout and one of the longest specialties to reside on the bonus list is electronic warfare/signal intelligence specialist (Linguist), 98X. Soldiers who enlist as a linguist could net \$20,000 based on a six-year contract.

There are also several other types of bonuses and incentives individuals can receive. "HIGRAD" is a type of bonus for individuals who have at least 30 hours of college credit or who have degrees, Green said. Then there are seasonal bonuses, which are for recruits commonly referred to as "quick ships," he said.

"Quick ships don't sit in the delayed entry program as long," Green said, explaining that delayed entries normally average 90 days.

"MOSs that are short personnel are labeled 'critical need' by PERSCOM," Green said, "and recruits are sent to basic as soon as possible to fill those slots."

Also available are bonuses for recruits who volunteer to attend jump school and fill airborne slots. For more information on enlistment bonuses go to <http://www.goarmy.com/index08.htm>

The Army continues to be over strength, Vales said, which is why the limits placed on re-enlistment options have not been lifted. The Army is authorized 480,000 troops, and Congress has mandated that the Army stay within 1 percent of that number, Vales said. However, personnel strength has exceeded that ceiling, he added.

Korea is the only option mid-term soldiers serving on a second or subsequent enlistment period will have to re-enlist for an overseas assignment, Vales said. He also said Selective Reenlistment Bonuses have been considerably cut compared to last fiscal year.



*U.S. soldiers patrol a Baghdad street on Thursday, June 26, 2003. American troops in Baghdad searched for two missing U.S. soldiers and their Humvee on a day of deadly back-to-back attacks on U.S. forces in Iraq. (AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)*



# U.S. troops hunt missing in Iraq, report new death

By Andrew Gray

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - U.S. soldiers in Iraq searched for two missing comrades on Friday and checked reports that a third was shot in a fresh outburst of the violence which has surged against occupying forces in recent days.

U.S. officers said they had detained three Iraqis in connection with the disappearance of the soldiers on Wednesday about 25 miles north of Baghdad. Troops drove through dusty roads on the lookout for the missing men.

Residents of a Baghdad suburb said they had seen a U.S. soldier shot in the head early on Friday as he browsed in a digital video disc store. U.S. military spokesmen said they had not heard of the incident but were looking into the report.

The military said a U.S. soldier was killed on Thursday in an ambush near the city of Najaf, bringing to 21 the number of U.S. personnel killed since President Bush declared major combat in Iraq over on May 1.

On Thursday alone, two soldiers and an Iraqi driver were killed in separate attacks on U.S. military targets. Six British soldiers were killed in the south on Tuesday. Nearly 20 U.S. and British soldiers were wounded in those incidents.

In a move sure to be seen as reflecting increasing disquiet in Washington over the volatile postwar situation in Iraq, the Pentagon has sent an independent mission to the country to review operations, Britain's Financial Times reported.

It also said a report by Kroll, a corporate security group, for companies considering investing in Iraq or taking part in its reconstruction had concluded that there was an even chance that the country could descend into open revolt.

A U.S. military spokesman, Major William Thurmond, said commanders might review how they deploy their forces as a result of the disappearance of the two soldiers.

"They were not within visual sight of any other soldiers — that's why they were not noticed immediately," he told reporters in Baghdad. "They were discovered as being missing as the result of a radio call. That might cause commanders on the ground to make changes as far as disposition of forces."

U.S. officials blame die-hard supporters of fallen leader Saddam Hussein for the attacks on their troops but many Iraqis say the violence stems from widespread anger at the occupation and its failure to provide basic services and security.

People in Kazimiyah, northwestern Baghdad, said they had witnessed the latest outbreak of violence.



*US soldiers from the 1st Armored Division detain a suspected Ba'ath Party member in Baghdad, Iraq on Friday June 27, 2003. (AP Photo/Mikhail Metzel)*

The owner of a DVD shop, who refused to give his name, said a U.S. soldier had come into his store at around 11 a.m. and picked up two discs.

"He took out dollars from his pocket and as I looked at the money I heard a bang. He froze and then fell backwards," the owner told Reuters Television. "Two other soldiers came in, picked him up and took him away."

Other witnesses corroborated his story. One said he saw a young man shooting the soldier at close quarters in the lower head. The extent of his injuries was unclear.

Officers said the victim of Thursday's killing near Najaf was a soldier attached to the First Marine Expeditionary Force killed in an ambush while investigating a car theft.

With sabotage against oil installations and attacks on U.S.-led forces coming almost daily, Secretary of State Colin Powell told reporters in Washington that the United States had always known postwar Iraq would be tough.

"We are concerned obviously and we are working hard to deal with the problem and I have confidence in the Department of Defense and the military commanders," he said.

In Pakistan, President Pervez Musharraf ignited a wave of criticism for saying his country could send up to 10,000 troops to Iraq, a fellow Muslim country. He spoke after meeting Bush in the United States.

# Rice says Europe, U.S. must seize historic moment

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 26, 2003 – Condoleezza Rice called on freedom-loving countries to unite and turn away from the temptations of playing great power politics during a speech at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London today.

Rice, national security advisor to President Bush, elaborated on Bush's statement two years ago that America and Europe share more than just the NATO alliance, "we share a civilization."



White House photo by Tina Hager

In prepared remarks, Rice said countries throughout the world share the values of Western civilization. "The bankruptcy of fascism, Nazism and imperial communism has given way to a paradigm of progress, founded on political and economic liberty," she said. "The United States, our NATO allies, our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere, Japan, and our other friends and allies in Asia and Africa all share a broad commitment to democracy, the rule of law, a market-based economy and open trade."

"And since Sept. 11, the world's great powers see themselves as falling on the same side of a profound divide between the forces of chaos and order."

Rice stated that like the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, 9-11 changed America and its strategic perspective. The attacks in New York and Washington showed an open society's vulnerability.

"In the terrifying hours and days following the attacks, we resolved that the only true defense against a threat of this kind is to root it out at its source and address it at its fundamental and ideological core," she said.

The United States works with a great coalition of freedom-loving nations to detect and defeat the terrorist menace. "With the help of our coalition partners, we have deposed two of the cruelest regimes of this or any time," Rice said.

She noted that many nations are uniting to protect against the scourge of weapons of mass destruction. Many nations are determined to address the challenges of proliferation posed by North Korea and Iran.

All this indicates a historic change in the way nations relate to one

another, Rice observed. She contends that the time is right for like-minded nations to join to guarantee freedom and peace worldwide. "This confluence of common interests and common values creates a historic opportunity to break the destructive pattern of great power rivalry that has bedeviled the world since rise of the nation state in the 17th century," she said. "This is, in fact, more than an opportunity. It is an obligation."

She said that instead of repeating the mistakes of great power rivalries causing small wars around the world, great power cooperation can solve conflicts. "In recent months some have questioned whether this is possible – or even desirable," she said. "Some argue that Europe and America are more divided by differing worldviews than we are united by common values."

She said some people have expressed a desire for the "good old days" of "multipolarity." She offered that this idea was never a unifying vision. "It was a necessary evil that sustained the absence of war, but it did not promote the triumph of peace," she said. "Multipolarity is a theory of rivalry, of competing interests – and at its worst – competing values."

She said the world has tried this before and it led to millions of deaths in World War I and World War II, and ultimately it led to the Cold War. "Today this theory of rivalry threatens to divert us from meeting the great tasks before us," she noted.

Rice stated that democratic values don't need checks from other forms of governance. "Democratic institutions themselves are a check on the excesses of power," she said. "Why should we seek to divide our capacities for good, when they can be so much more effective united? Only the enemies of freedom would cheer this division."

"Power in the service of freedom is to be welcomed, and powers that share a commitment to freedom can – and must – make common cause against freedom's enemies."

Rice said the world needs that spirit to confront the enemies of democracy and freedom. She said that spirit will enable countries "to deny the world's most dangerous weapons to the world's most dangerous regimes." That spirit is needed to allow alliances like NATO to take on missions outside their geographical areas. The spirit is needed at the United Nations to confront the root causes of terrorism: poverty, sickness and oppression.

That spirit is especially needed in the Middle East, she pointed out. "In Europe, reconciliation between formally hostile peoples ... was achieved through the spread of democracy, security and freedom," she said.

"True peace between Israel and a future Palestine must be rooted in prosperity through economic freedom, and democracy founded upon the rule of law and respect for human rights, and the defeat of terror."

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# Israel, Palestinians okay Gaza pullback

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel and the Palestinians agreed in principle Friday on the terms of an Israeli pullback from parts of the Gaza Strip, Israel TV said.

The deal was reached in a meeting between security officials from both sides, the report said. The report could not immediately be confirmed independently.

As part of a U.S.-backed peace plan, Israel must gradually withdraw from areas it reoccupied during the past 33 months of fighting. Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the terms of the withdrawal from areas in Gaza had been deadlocked for several weeks, in part over who would control the main north-south road.

Earlier Friday, a senior militia official said the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups have agreed to a three-month suspension of attacks on Israelis, providing the first confirmation by the militants that such a deal has been reached.

The comments came despite an Israeli army raid earlier Friday in which three gunmen, two of them from Hamas, and a bystander were killed in a two-hour gunbattle.

A formal announcement is to be made Sunday, a Palestinian mediator said.

## Rice says Europe, U.S. must seize historic moment continued

Europe and the United States must turn to the Middle East with the same vision, determination and patience that we exhibited in building a united transatlantic community after 1945."

She said like-minded countries and the people of the Middle East must be bold and take advantage of this time in history. "If we and the people of the Middle East are not bold enough today, we face a future in which the freedom deficit continues to create ideologies of hatred that threaten civilization as we know it," Rice said.

She emphasized that this is a journey, not a destination. The work will span many generations, and it cannot be done if nations work against one another.

"Let us, then, lay aside the quest for new 'poles' and turn our energies to creating what President Bush has called 'a balance of power that favors freedom' - where we defend freedom against its enemies and support those across the globe seeking to build freedom in their own societies," she said.

"As German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said recently: 'Surely we are all agreed that we only want one pole in global politics around which we orientate ourselves - the pole of freedom, peace and justice.' I, for one, could not agree more," she said.



*Palestinian flags flutter in the breeze as Palestinians enjoy the beach in Gaza City Wednesday, June 25, 2003. Three key Palestinian groups: Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah agreed Wednesday to a three month truce, halting attacks on Israel, according to a senior official of Fatah. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)*

Hamas has informed the Palestinian prime minister of its decision regarding a proposed three-month suspension of attacks on Israel, the founder of the group, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, said Friday.

He stopped short of declaring acceptance, saying Hamas still needs to consult other Palestinian groups ahead of a joint declaration. "We have presented our decision to the factions so that we don't announce an independent decision, and so that the decision will be a group decision, with all the Palestinian factions," he told The Associated Press. "There will be a joint declaration within days."

The truce deal, coupled with an emerging agreement on an Israeli pullback from large parts of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Bethlehem, provides a boost to a U.S.-backed peace plan, the "road map" to Palestinian statehood by 2005.

Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. national security adviser, is to arrive in the region on Saturday as President Bush's personal envoy to discuss implementation of the plan - halting until now - with the leaders of both sides.

Israel has shrugged off the truce offer as an internal Palestinian matter and has said it will continue to go after militants it fears endanger Israel's security.

"In our opinion, a cease-fire will not help," said David Faranga, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman. "What is needed is the dismantling of the terrorist infrastructure and war on terror. From our point of view a cease fire is a ticking bomb."

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# POW/MIA poster unveiled; en route worldwide

by Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va., June 26, 2003 - POW/MIA Recognition Day isn't until Sept. 19, but, as with tradition, this year's poster was unveiled June 26 during a national organization's annual meeting, according to Jerry D. Jennings.

The unveiling took place during the convening here of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia June 26-28.

Jennings, deputy assistant secretary of defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, is not only concerned about those missing from the Vietnam War. His organization searches the world for remains of missing Americans from all wars.

The dominant picture on this year's poster was taken in March of infantrymen fighting in the desert during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"American warriors of yesterday and today have never failed to answer their nation's call," Jennings told the audience. "Through selfless sacrifice, they've brought to the entire world a concept closely associated with American ideals - freedom!

"Freedom — a word with so many meanings to so many people, yet a word that clearly means, 'This is America!' he said.

Pointing out that this year's poster reflects on the past and the present, Jennings said, "The somber, black POW/MIA flag - a national symbol that's internationally recognized — is a firm reminder of those still missing and of their families who have waited decades for answers."

He said the words "You are not forgotten," which grace the POW/MIA flag, "reminds us of their sacrifice - for our freedom."

Jennings said the rippling red, white and blue banner on the poster is clear and proud through the smoke of battle and leads American warriors forward. "Yes, we are at war," he said calmly.

"It leads the warriors forward toward freedom for oppressed peoples, toward freedom for those who know the word that means so much to the world," he said. "Freedom lies in the hearts of the people of an entire nation. It lies in the ideals that are so richly American. And it rests on the shoulders of those we honor on this special day and we'll honor again in September."

Noting that last year's poster was a huge success, Jennings said 20,000 more copies were printed this year, bringing the total to 150,000.

The poster is being sent out to all DoD military units around the world, according to Larry Greer, public affairs officer for the POW/Missing Personnel Office. "It's also being sent to all veterans organizations' posts and chapters worldwide, all POW/MIA family organizations and to all Veterans Affairs hospitals and service



*The 2003 POW/MIA Recognition Day poster was unveiled by Jerry D. Jennings, deputy assistant secretary of defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs, and Jo Anne Shirley, chairman of the board of the National League of Families, during its 34th annual meeting, in Arlington, Va. Photo by Rudi Williams.*

centers," Greer noted.

He said the poster is on his organization's Web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or by writing to DPMO, 2400 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-2400.

Jennings noted that there are more than 88,000 servicemen still unaccounted for from past conflicts. "Their families wait. Our work is not done," he emphasized.

"More than 140,000 Americans since World War I have endured the hardships of captivity as prisoners of war," Jennings said. "Their sacrifices - for freedom - must never be forgotten. This nation especially honors their names, their undying spirit and their memory on Sept. 19, 2003."

The nation will celebrate POW/MIA Recognition Day on that date, which is proclaimed by the president and most states.

The league, which originated on the West Coast in the late 1960s, works to obtain the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving during the Vietnam War.



# Silent no longer: Iraqi people reveal the past

by Linda D. Kozaryn, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2003 - For the first time in decades, the Iraqi people can talk openly about what happened during Saddam Hussein's regime.

They're talking, and the world is listening.

Each day, U.S. and coalition officials in Iraq hear more and more about the atrocities that occurred over the last two decades, according to Sandra Hodgkinson, the Coalition Provisional Authority's director of human rights. Whether they're Kurdish, Sunni, Shiia or Christian, she said, "it seems like every Iraqi has a story."

"In some way, the regime affected their day-to-day life, either someone they knew, or loved or cared about," Hodgkinson said this week during a telephone interview from her office in Baghdad. While many Iraqis seek out the Human Rights Office, she said, others talk to coalition military forces, nongovernmental organizations staff or provisional authority personnel.

"Everybody that is interacting with the local Iraqis is inundated with these complaints," Hodgkinson said.

Several Iraqi employees at the Human Rights Office in Baghdad take summaries of past atrocities from Iraqi victims.

"When they want to come in and tell their story to somebody," Hodgkinson said, "we allow them to sit down in an office and talk about what happened, or we give them a summary of past abuse form that they can fill out." One purpose of the form, she said, "is to get information that may be useful at some point in a future, Iraq-led, justice system for crimes against humanity."

The Iraqis describe missing loved ones. They talk of torture and executions. They tell where the bodies are buried.

"To date, we have had reports of over 80 mass graves, and we have confirmed the existence of over 20 where we're sure that it is a mass grave, that there are bodies in there," Hodgkinson said.

The human rights specialist is from the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (a href="http://www.state.gov/www/global/human\_rights/">http://www.state.gov/www/global/human\_rights/. She is also a Navy Reserve judge advocate general officer with the International and Operational Law Unit at the Pentagon. She's worked as a military prosecutor and an instructor in crimes against humanity issues through the International Military Education and Training program.

Under the Iraqi Liberation Act of 1998, defense officials provided some war crimes and crimes against humanity training at the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies in Newport, R.I., for the Iraqi opposition. "I was the course coordinator and an instructor for that program," Hodgkinson said, "which early on, got me working with Iraqi opposition in areas related to crimes against humanity, human rights protection and how to investigate and preserve evidence of



*"You can't possibly imagine what it would have been like to be an Iraqi under Saddam's regime until you actually walk out to one of these sites and see the marks of bulldozing at the bottom of the pit from 10, 15 years ago," said Sandra Hodgkinson, the Coalition Provisional Authority's director of human rights. These sites are "where they specifically dug a grave just to throw bodies in it," she added.*

these crimes."

In her civilian capacity, Hodgkinson has participated in the State Department's Future of Iraq Project, and about two years ago, she spoke at a Human Rights and Transitional Justice seminar arranged by the Iraqi National Congress in London. In February she began working with the Defense Department's Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, deploying first to Kuwait and then to Baghdad on March 16.

With all her experiences over the years, Hodgkinson has heard numerous stories about what was going on inside Iraq. Even so, she said, "you can't possibly imagine what it would have been like to be an Iraqi under Saddam's regime until you actually walk out to one of these sites and see the marks of bulldozing at the bottom of the pit from 10, 15 years ago — where they specifically dug a grave just to throw bodies in it. And to see bullet holes in skulls. To see blindfolds over their eyes. To see ligatures holding their hands behind their back, and handcuffs, and to hear the local witnesses' stories."

Visiting the gravesites has been overwhelming, Hodgkinson said,

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## Chechen rebels ambush Russian troops

by Yuri Bagrov

VLADIKAVKAZ, Russia (AP) - Chechen rebels ambushed and killed five Russian troops and pro-Moscow policemen responding to an emergency call about the shooting of a village elder, officials said Friday.

In a separate incident, two Russian servicemen were killed and two others wounded by a land mine in the Chechen capital, Grozny.

Russian planes also bombarded suspected rebel positions in the Nozhai-Yurt district, and artillery was used in several other districts.

The ambushed troops and policemen were responding to an emergency call in Vashindaroi, where about 20 unidentified, camouflaged men dragged the chairman of the council of elders, Alavdi Alsabayev, from his house and killed him, said an official in the Moscow-backed administration.

The ambush victims included Said-Ibragim Shamayev, son of Chechnya's chief mufti, or Muslim spiritual leader, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Also Friday, the Chechen prosecutor's office said it identified the suicide bomber who blew herself up at a religious ceremony in May, killing 16.

Larisa Musalayeva, 26, and another female suicide bomber are suspected of trying to kill Akhmad Kadyrov, the head of Chechnya's Moscow-backed administration, at the gathering, the Interfax news agency said.

Chechen Prosecutor Vladimir Kravchenko said Musalayeva's brother also was behind several terrorist attacks, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Russian forces have been bogged down in Chechnya since 1999, when they returned following rebel raids on a neighboring region and a series of deadly apartment-house bombings in Russian cities.

Before that, Russian troops fought a 1994-1996 war with Chechen separatists that ended in a Russian retreat and de facto independence for the region.

## SMA offers safety ideas based on Iraq incidents

by Spc. Matthew Roe

FORT RUCKER, Ala. (Army News Service, June 27, 2003) - Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley visited Fort Rucker a few weeks ago and suggested ways to improve safety for troops in Iraq and elsewhere.

"I am really focused on safety in the military," Tilley told soldiers at the U.S. Army Safety Center May 30.

"When I was in Baghdad, many of the soldiers were not wearing seat belts while riding in Humvees. It took too long to unbuckle the seat belts when getting out to fight," Tilley said.

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## Silent no longer: Iraqi people reveal the past continued

particularly where the local people have rushed out to the site, trying to find any remains of their missing loved ones.

"It is just heart-wrenching to see them sobbing, lying there — men, women, children, entire families — just trying to find something to help them reconcile with what they've been through. It's really, really very moving. It's proof that everything we've been hearing about for years is absolutely true and possibly at an even higher level than what we'd expected."

Coalition officials have been getting daily reports of mass graves in neighborhoods, villages and towns throughout Iraq, Hodgkinson said. Military officials do preliminary investigations and determine whether further inquiry is warranted. In some cases, coalition forces secure the site, pending further examination.

"We try to verify as quickly as possible whether or not there is, in fact, a mass grave, and what's the likelihood that something could happen to the grave in the short term, if we don't maintain a presence or cordon it off," she said.

"For the past six weeks now, we've had a forensic assessment team

in from the United Kingdom," she added. "We brought them in to help not only do initial site surveys and initial assessments, but also to help advise us on our overall graves strategy."

The team has been creating "forensic protocols," she noted, "which are standards that every forensic team that comes in to assist in the exhumation process will have to live by in all the graves around the country. It was most important to make sure that this is done in a systematic way so that the identifications that are done and the evidence that is pulled from these graves can actually be useful in the future."

The British team has done initial assessments at many of the graves in the Baghdad area, Hodgkinson said. Coalition officials will use the team's input to help prioritize where they'll send full forensic exhumation teams.

"We've been contacting many of our coalition partners to explore the possibility of getting donor exhumation teams," she said. "Given the sophisticated level of expertise necessary to do this, we're going to need all the forensic teams possible."



# New software streamlines TDY process

by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 26, 2003 —

A new software program being tested by the Defense Travel System will make arranging, paying and reimbursement for official government travel a speedy, seamless and almost paperless process.

Air Force Col. Larry Schaefer, DTS director, said a software program, called the "Enhanced Jefferson," is transforming the way the DoD does temporary-duty travel.

"The whole idea is that we are automating the TDY process for all of the Department of Defense," he added.

The Enhanced Jefferson, designed by Northrop Grumman's Mission Systems sector, allows DTS to operate similar to many online travel Web sites by providing government travelers information for selecting airlines, rental cars and lodging.

In addition, Schaefer said the Enhanced Jefferson also allows government travelers to complete their travel vouchers and compute costs of travel online from their workstation.

Using digital signatures for security, government travelers can log onto the DTS Web site and begin the travel authorization process by selecting the type of TDY travel, inputting departure and return dates, and making their travel arrangements, he explained.

The system automatically calculates per diem rates, to include meals and incidental expenses based on the destination of travel, he said.

## Afghan soldier wounded in firefight

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — An Afghan government soldier was wounded in a three-hour battle with Taliban fighters who attacked the home of a government militia commander, a district police official said Friday.

About 25 Taliban fighters attacked the residential compound late Wednesday in Maruf district, about 110 miles northeast of Kandahar, said Ahmed Shah Jan, deputy chief of police in Maruf. They were rebuffed by militia guarding the home.

After the gun battle, one Taliban was taken into custody, Jan said. The commander was not injured.

"We have sent more troops to Mashozai and we are trying to arrest the other Taliban," he said.

In recent months, suspected Taliban rebels and fighters loyal to another renegade commander, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, have increased attacks against government troops and installations, mainly in southern and eastern Afghanistan along the border with Pakistan.

Pakistan has deployed more troops to its border with Afghanistan

Upon return, travelers can also input information on additional expenses such as parking fees and mileage reimbursements.



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Schaefer said that because the TDY voucher is already "pre-populated" with the traveler's information, "you can literally file a voucher within minutes."

He said the Enhanced Jefferson is an improvement over the manual paper process used throughout most of DoD, which he said has been a cumbersome process that often times included "40 or 50 steps." By comparison, the new DTS process has just seven steps, he said.

"The traveler will see that they get paid much quicker," he said. "Instead of the cumbersome manual processes of today, that require some significant amount of time, everything is done automatically, and saves time."

The Enhanced Jefferson is being tested at 20 pilot sites and awaiting final DoD approval before it can be implemented for use by all DoD travelers, Schaefer said.

Pilot sites include Ellis Air Force Base, S.D.; Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station, S.C.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Ga.; Vance Air Force Base, Okla.; and Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Arlington, Va.

Schaefer said the new system is expected to be in place DoD wide by the fall 2006.

The DTS Web site can be found at <http://www.defensetravel.com>.

to prevent Taliban and al-Qaida suspects from entering its territory or carrying out operations across the border.

Many Taliban and al-Qaida ousted during the U.S.-led war in 2001 are believed to be in the lawless Pakistani territory that borders Afghanistan and receiving aid from tribesmen.

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## **Israel, Palestinians okay Gaza pullback continued**

Israel fears that a temporary truce will allow the militants to recover from the punishing strikes Israeli troops have delivered in the past year, and to regroup for more violence. However, Palestinian Prime Minister Mamoud Abbas has said he will not use force against the armed groups, for fear of causing civil war.

En route to the Middle East, Rice called on the European Union to outlaw the political wing of Hamas to dry up the flow of donations to the group, which has killed hundreds of Israelis in bombings and shootings.

A troop pullback would be the first major step by Israel toward implementing the peace plan, which calls on Israel to return to positions it held before the outbreak of fighting in September 2000. Bush launched the plan June 4, but its implementation has been rocky until now.

The truce agreement was worked out between Marwan Barghouti, the jailed West Bank leader of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, and heads of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Damascus, Syria - Khaled Mashal and Ramadan Shalah.

The Associated Press reported on Wednesday, citing a Fatah legislator involved in the negotiations, that Mashal and Shalah had agreed to the proposal.

However, local Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders in the Gaza Strip initially denied there was a deal, and then said it had not been finalized and needed more study.

Providing first confirmation from the Gaza militants themselves, a senior militia leader told AP on Friday that Hamas and Islamic Jihad have accepted the proposal. "The trilateral document is now ready," said the official, referring to the truce deal.

The official spoke on condition that neither he nor his group be identified.

Ahead of the formal announcement Sunday, talks will continue with 10 smaller factions to have them sign the agreement as well, the official said.

The military wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad and a Fatah-allied militia have been responsible for the vast majority of scores of shootings and bombings that have killed hundreds of Israelis in the past 33 months of fighting. It appeared very unlikely any of the smaller groups would oppose the deal, now that Hamas and Islamic Jihad are on board.

Throughout the day, Hamas and Islamic Jihad officials had been hinting strongly that they have accepted the agreement.

"A plan for a truce ... will be announced along with other Palestinian factions at the right time," Mahmoud Zahar, a Hamas leader, he told Lebanon's Al Hayat-LBC satellite television from Gaza.

Mohammed al-Hindi, the Islamic Jihad leader in Gaza, told Al-Jazeera satellite TV that "in a short time we will have a final document,"

adding that it would be presented to Abbas before being formally announced.

One of the demands - but not a precondition - of the truce deal is that Israel halt all military strikes, including targeted killings of wanted Palestinians.

The target of Friday's raid, top Hamas bombmaker Adnan al-Ghoul, also known as "The Engineer," was not present. Al-Ghoul has been wanted for more than a decade, and has supervised the construction of homemade rocket Hamas has been firing at Jewish settlements and Israeli border towns.

In the raid, an Israeli commando team surrounded the home of the bombmaker's brother Omran al-Ghoul in the village of Mujarkha in the central Gaza Strip.

A gunbattle erupted between soldiers and dozens of armed Palestinians. Omran al-Ghoul, himself a Hamas operative, as well as the bombmaker's 19-year-old son, Mohammed, and an Israeli soldier were killed. In a separate clash nearby, a bystander and another gunman were killed, Palestinian hospital officials said.

Palestinian witnesses said they heard 17 tank shells being shot during the battles, and said helicopters fired incessantly.

Thousands of Palestinians marched in a funeral procession for the four Palestinians killed and called for revenge. Some in the crowd shouted out a warning for Abbas, who is also called Abu Mazen: "Abu Mazen, listen closely. There is nothing except resistance."



*British soldiers from the Kings Own Scottish Borderers regiment man their armoured vehicles near Amara, Iraq, Friday June 27, 2003. Six British military police were killed June 24 in nearby Majar al-Kabir after a violent demonstration left four Iraqi civilians dead. (AP Photo/Denis Doyle)*

**[www.goordnance.  
apg.army.mil](http://www.goordnance.apg.army.mil)**

# Iraqi information minister stands by his stories 'Authentic sources' cited in false claims of victory

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (Associuated Press) - Iraq's former information minister, who gained notoriety during the war for wildly implausible claims of victory, went on Arab television yesterday and stood by his statements, saying they came from "many authentic sources."

Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf denied that U.S. tanks were in Baghdad even as television showed them in the capital.

"There is no presence of American infidels in the city of Baghdad," al-Sahhaf asserted outside the Palestine Hotel on April 7. Baghdad fell April 9.

In his first appearance since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime - an interview with the Al-Arabiya satellite network, al-Sahhaf did not directly back down from some of his false claims during the war.

Asked where he got his information, he said: "From authentic sources. Many authentic sources. And these also will be dealt with by history."

Al-Sahhaf said he had surrendered to American forces, was questioned and let go.

"Through friends, I went to the Americans," he said. "I was interrogated about a number of subjects related to my job. After that, I was released."

The interview came a day after Britain's Daily Mirror reported that al-Sahhaf had been taken into custody. The Dubai-based station said the interview aimed to dispel that claim.

A Defense Department spokesman, Col. Jay DeFrank, said the U.S. Central Command had no information on his being in American custody.

Al-Arabiya showed a five-minute segment of the 30-minute interview conducted yesterday in a Baghdad suburb.

In the excerpt, al-Sahhaf was reluctant to talk about the fall of Hussein's regime.

"The time is not ripe yet to say what happened. When history is ready, then we can talk about it," he said. "It was a difficult situation, not for one individual, but for everybody."

Al-Sahhaf said he was not afraid of the future. "Everyone could face something that hurts him. But I don't expect that I will be hurt," he said.



He appeared fit in civilian clothes. But al-Sahhaf was thinner and his hair was white - a sharp change from his previous look of military fatigues and black hair tucked under a beret.

The full interview will include "important information about the last war and the fall of the Iraqi regime," Al-Arabiya said.

Al-Sahhaf "was exclusively interviewed in his hide-out in Baghdad," it said.

Abu Dhabi television said it, too, had an interview with al-Sahhaf, which it planned to air late yesterday.

Al-Sahhaf appeared on television in daily press briefings in Baghdad before and during the U.S.-led war, speaking about Iraqi military successes and insulting coalition forces, President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

When the Palestine Hotel came under U.S. tank fire April 8, he had to admit that coalition forces were in the capital. But, smiling, he made it sound like it was all part of Iraq's plan.

"We blocked them inside the city. Their rear is blocked," he said in hurried remarks that were a departure from his daily news conference.

Al-Sahhaf disappeared April 9, the day Baghdad fell. He is not on the list of the 55 most-wanted Iraqi officials.

A month ago, Al-Arabiya announced that it would offer al-Sahhaf a job as a commentator on Iraqi affairs if it located him. He might not be credible, station officials said, but he is popular

and was in the Iraqi regime.



*"Lying is forbidden in Iraq. President Saddam Hussein will tolerate nothing but truthfulness as he is a man of great honor and integrity. Everyone is encouraged to speak freely of the truths evidenced in their eyes and hearts."*



## North Korea sees U.S. troop pullback as prelude to war

SEOUL (Reuters) - A U.S.-South Korean plan to transfer American troops away from the border with North Korea is designed to set the stage for a pre-emptive strike on the communist state, Pyongyang's ruling party daily said Friday.

On June 5, Washington and Seoul unveiled a plan for removing U.S. forces from near the Demilitarized Zone — the stretch of no-man's land dividing the South from North Korea — and relocating them in the center of the peninsula.

The United States described the plan, which comes amid a deepening impasse over North Korea's nuclear weapons ambitions, as part of a wider U.S. redeployment worldwide to create a more flexible presence and reduce friction with local communities.

But North Korea's Rodong Sinmun, the official mouthpiece of the ruling party, said the long-term redeployment plan was "a very dangerous military move which should not be overlooked."

"The U.S. imperialists are applying a war method based on high-tech with main emphasis put on missile strikes and air raids rather than land attack in carrying out their war of overseas aggression," it said.

Analysts had warned that Pyongyang could misinterpret the troop move either as a weakening of the 50-year-old U.S. security commitment to South Korea or as a plan to take troops out of range of North Korea's artillery before a pre-emptive strike on the North's nuclear facilities.

The nuclear crisis erupted in October when U.S. officials said North Korea had admitted to a secret nuclear arms program.

The two Korean states remain technically at war because the armed truce which ended the 1950-53 Korean conflict never led to a peace treaty.

The timetable for the U.S. redeployment has not been spelled out.



*A National Guard Blackhawk helicopter drops water on a hot spot in a forested area on the west side of the Rio Grande, in Albuquerque, N.M., Thursday, June 26, 2003. A suspected arson fire that charred about 800 forested acres along the Rio Grande was contained Thursday after helicopters dropped water to quell the flames. (AP Photo/Jake Schoellkopf)*

## SMA offers safety ideas based on Iraq incidents continued

Tilley returned from his trip to Iraq with an idea. While he visited with safety center officials, he recommended that a seat belt, similar to a helicopter four-point, quick-release system, be installed in Humvees as well.

Another concern Tilley spoke of was that several soldiers have driven into rivers, and other bodies of water, and have drowned recently because they could not get out of their Humvees. Again, he made a recommendation to safety center officials. He suggested that military vehicles be equipped with bigger windows or break-away windshields.

Tilley touched on other safety issues such as weapons, body armor and the use of seat belts in personal vehicles.

"One day I stood on a street corner and stopped five cars. Three of the drivers were not wearing their seat belts," Tilley said.

But Tilley was not the only one to make safety recommendations during his visit to Fort Rucker. Members of the safety center proposed ideas and received feedback directly from Tilley.

Following the safety center briefings, Tilley addressed several of the National Guard and Army Reserve units that are stationed at Fort Rucker, waiting to deploy.

"We could not get the job done without the Guard and Reserve units," Tilley said. The Army has 482,000 active-duty soldiers. With Guard and Reserve forces, there are 1.2 million soldiers in the total Army, he said.

"There are 300 million people in the country and less than 1 percent serves in the military," Tilley said, adding that it takes a special person to serve in our Nation's fighting forces.

"There is something special in the hearts of soldiers," Tilley said. "We are the work horse of the United States of America. Be proud of what you do," Tilley added.

In the afternoon, Tilley met with senior noncommissioned officers at the post theater. During these meetings, NCOs had the opportunity to bring soldier and leader issues to Tilley's attention.

Tilley also met with junior enlisted soldiers during breakfast and in the afternoon when he visited Knox Army Heliport.

"I spent the night in Saddam Hussein's palace," he told the soldiers. "There was no furniture there. It was all stolen, but I spent the night there," he said.

*(Editor's note: Spc. Matthew Roe is editor of the Army Flier newspaper at Fort Rucker, Ala.)*

# U.S. launches national do-not-call list

by David Ho

WASHINGTON (AP) - People pestered by telemarketers can start signing up Friday for a national do-not-call list intended to block most phone sales pitches.

Consumers can register for the free government service by visiting the Web site [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). Telephone registration using a toll-free number - 1-888-382-1222 - is available in states west of the Mississippi River, including Minnesota and Louisiana, the Federal Trade Commission said. Nationwide registration should be available by July 7.

The national registry, an FTC project more than a year in the making, was being inaugurated Friday at a White House ceremony led by President Bush.



*Federal Communications Commission Michael K. Powell, looks on as chairman of the Federal Trade Commission Timothy J. Muris, right, comments on the newly announced national do-not-call list intended to block most phone sales pitches, following a ceremony at the White House, Friday, June 27, 2003. The list will block about 80 percent of telemarketing calls, Muris said. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)*

has sued the FTC, saying the program amounts to an unlawful restriction on free speech.

The FCC voted 5-0 Thursday to add its authority to the do-not-call list, blocking telemarketing calls from within a state - the FTC could only police interstate calls - and from industries whose calls the agency regulates, including airlines, banks and telephone companies.

Of the states with do-not-call lists, 13 plan to add their lists of 8.1 million numbers to the national registry this summer, three have legislation pending to allow them to share, and 11 will not share the information, the FTC said. Consumers on state lists added to the national one need not register again.

Beginning in September, telemarketers will have to check the list every three months to see who doesn't want to be called. Those who call listed people could be fined up to \$11,000 for each violation. Consumers would file complaints to an automated phone or online system.

Exemptions from the list include calls from charities, pollsters and on behalf of politicians. Registered consumers also can give written permission to get calls from certain companies.

A company also may call someone on the no-call list if that person has bought, leased or rented from the company within the past 18 months. Telemarketers also may call people if they have inquired about or applied for something from the company during the past three months.

But consumers can avoid those calls by asking to be put on an individual company's do-not-call list.

Congress authorized the FTC to collect up to \$18.1 million from telemarketers to pay the program's expenses in the first year.

## Don't call me!

Many unwanted sales calls will be blocked beginning in October for people who sign up for a national do-not-call list created by the Federal Trade Commission. Several states currently have no-call laws.

- Consumers may sign up on the Web at [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) or the phone number, 1-888-382-1222.
- The only identifying information kept will be the phone number.
- Placing a number on the national do-not-call registry will stop many, but not all, telemarketing calls.
- Charities, surveys and some businesses are exempt, including telephone companies, airlines and banks.



The list will block about 80 percent of telemarketing calls, FTC Chairman Timothy Muris said.

"People own their homes and their phones and now they will have a choice about whether they want the calls," Muris said in an interview.

Telephone registration is being done in stages to ensure the system can handle the volume of calls expected, the FTC said. The commission expects up to 60 million phone numbers to be registered in the first year.

"I think this has been a complaint of consumers for a very long time," Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell said on NBC's "Today." "This is a day they've awaited for a long time."

People who sign up this summer should see a decrease in telemarketing calls after the FTC begins enforcing the do-not-call list on Oct. 1, said Muris, who joined Powell on NBC.

"We are going to assign dozens of people to enforce this very important rule," Muris said.

Registrations will have to be renewed every five years.

On the Web site, people will have to provide the phone number they want protected and an e-mail address to receive confirmation. Consumers calling the toll-free number will have to call from the telephone number they want to register.

Telemarketers attempt up to 104 million calls every day, according to the FCC.

The industry has said the registry will devastate their business and

# MWR brings discounted resort, theme park fees to redeploying soldiers

by Harriet E. Rice

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service June 26, 2003) — This summer, many theme parks, regional attractions and vacation destinations will salute the military with free admissions and deep discounts that last through late fall and early winter.

Information, Tickets, and Registration staff on posts all over the world can help customers save even more by providing the absolutely lowest rates for hotels near those attractions and destinations, at the same timing generating money for their installation Morale, Welfare and Recreation fund, says Dan Yount, chief of the Leisure Travel Office in at the Army Community and Family Support Center.

"Military members and their families will also enjoy additional savings by purchasing their tickets to dinner theaters and other special events by logging on to [www.offdutytravel.com](http://www.offdutytravel.com) and clicking on the 'Ticket' links," notes Yount.

That Web site, [www.offdutytravel.com](http://www.offdutytravel.com) is the one-stop online "go-to" source for information about every conceivable discount, adds Yount. For example, there are all-inclusive resort vacations (this means unlimited food, activities and beverages including those dispensed from the bar) at to-die-for locations in the Caribbean and

throughout the United States as well as discounted RV rentals and much more, Yount says.

"Usually, the same service offered on commercial vendors' websites can be conveniently arranged by the ITR staff at the same or an even lower cost," says Yount. "When authorized customers who could use ITR services use commercial websites to book their vacations or purchase their tickets, the local ITR/MWR gets no commissions and therefore no income."

Another example he gives is the cost of hotel rooms: hotel discounts are as much as 40 percent in major cities such as Boston and New York, and ITR staff can book rooms.

Along with the ITR, soldiers and their families can also check out Web sites run by various theme parks and resorts offering discounts.

Sandals Resorts, with 17 resorts in Jamaica, Antigua, the Bahamas and St. Lucia, is offering a free, three-day vacation to soldiers with a \$1 million donation through Operation Relax. The resorts will pay for trip to their resorts if soldiers can prove their service with a photocopy of orders stating they are on active duty and a copy of their military ID card. Spouses can fill out an application if the applicant is deployed.

Applications are on a first-come first-serve basis and must be received by Aug. 9, 2003. The applications will be accepted until the \$1 million mark is reached. Once the applications are authenticated, a certificate for the deluxe vacation will be mailed out to the soldier. The certificate will be good for two years after that. For more information go to [www.sandals.com](http://www.sandals.com).

The country's major theme parks - Disney, Universal Studios, Anheuser-Busch - are all offering free passes to military members. All soldiers whether they're in the National Guard, Army Reserves or on active duty can take advantage of the deals, said Yount.

At the Universal Studios Hollywood park, active members of the military qualify for free admission until Dec. 19. Up to five family members or friends of each service person will also be able to purchase the same pass for \$39 until Dec. 19.



Members of the military will also receive a 40 percent discount at Universal Orlando's three on-site Loews Hotels through Dec. 19. The on-site hotels include: Portofino Bay Hotel and Universal's Hard Rock Hotel. A soldier can stay at the Royal Pacific Resort from August 17 through Dec. 19.

For more information about Universal Military Salute visit [www.universalorlando.com/military](http://www.universalorlando.com/military) or [www.UniversalStudiosHollywood.com](http://www.UniversalStudiosHollywood.com)

A soldier that wants to go to Disneyland or Disney World's "Armed Forces Salute" has to prove their service from Sept. 1, 2002 to Dec. 19, 2003, to take advantage of the free pass, said David Brady of Walt Disney Media Relations.



"As long as a reservist can demonstrate proof of an active-duty assignment during the eligibility period, he or she will be able to take advantage of Disney's offer," Brady said.

For more information about the Disney deals, visit [www.disneyland.com/military](http://www.disneyland.com/military).

Anheuser-Busch's offer of one-day passes is good for any of the theme parks or Sea Worlds they operate in Virginia, California, Texas or Pennsylvania. To attend, soldiers must fill out an application.

Information and applications about all the various passes and offers appears on [www.offdutytravel.com](http://www.offdutytravel.com) at the menu item "Special Free Admission Offers."

**continued on page 15**



## CENTCOM: One soldier killed, two wounded in Afghanistan



BAGRAM Air Base, Afghanistan - Three special operations forces members were wounded during operations in the vicinity of Gardez, in Paktya province Wednesday. One of the three service members subsequently died of wounds in the Bagram Air Base hospital.

Names of the wounded servicemembers are

being withheld for privacy. The name of the deceased service member is being withheld pending notification of next of kin.



Fire rages at the oil pipeline at Ishaqi, 70 kilometers northwest of Baghdad, Iraq following an attack Thursday, June 26, 2003. Post-war looting and sabotage at oil facilities have affected the resumption of Iraq's oil exports and will keep shipments well below pre-war levels. (AP Photo/Ali Haider)



Passengers board an Ariana Airlines Boeing 727 June 25 for a flight to Kabul from Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan. The flight was the first of a re-opened air route between Kandahar and the Afghan capitol. Photo by Cpl. Keith A. Kluewe.



## MWR brings discounted resort, theme park fees to redeploying soldiers continued

"We have all the information, including any blackout dates and the application form a soldier needs to bring to the box office to obtain the free admission," says Yount, adding that soldiers should be prepared to provide written documentation and identification to verify their eligibility.

A soldier must accompany their family members to the parks in most instances. Retired military and Department of Defense civilians are still eligible to purchase the regular military discount tickets.

In Colorado, Ron and Ruby Clements just want to reward returning veterans from Iraq they way Ron wasn't after coming home from Vietnam.

They will host 10 soldiers, their spouses or significant others, for six one-week-long retreats to the Eagle's Nest recreational ranch in Colorado this summer.

The offer includes six nights of lodging, including meals and participation in ranch activities.

Soldiers can qualify by having served in Iraq during the war and

must present a letter from their commander stating they "served honorably overseas."

To take advantage of this visit [www.loneconeoutfitters.com](http://www.loneconeoutfitters.com).

Ron is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel and flew 300 combat missions during that conflict.

There are also many regional attractions, theme parks, resort destinations and special events both in the U.S. and overseas that are unique to local areas around military installations and communities; ITR staffs work with those local vendors to obtain discounted tickets and admissions fees.

"You'd really be hard-pressed to beat some of the travel, entertainment and vacations deals that are being offered to the military right now, and if customers can help keep some of their hard-earned money at home to benefit their own MWR programs by using ITR and the Web site, so much the better," says Yount.

(Editor's note: Harriet Rice is with CFSC Public Affairs)

